

VZCZCXRO3345
OO RUEHMA RUEHPA
DE RUEHCO #0948 3481239
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 141239Z DEC 07 ZDS
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0053
INFO RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 0279
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 1282
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1209
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1409
RUEHRN/USMISSION UN ROME
DEPARTMENT OF HHS WASHDC

UNCLAS COTONOU 000948

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDED ADDRESSEE)

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/W DBANKS AND G/AIAG MJONES
DEPT PLEASE PASS USAID FOR MHARVEY, GGREER, GBERTOLIN, NSTUDZINSKI
AND JBORRAZZO
USDA FOR FAS MROSENBLUM
DAKAR FOR USDA/APHIS CFRENCH AND RCOLY AND FAS RHANSON
ROME FOR SPANOS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [BN](#)

SUBJECT: AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK REPORTED IN BENIN

REF: (A) COTONOU 932 (B) Rosenblum/Brown Email 12/13/07

11. Summary: Test results on the poultry which died in Benin (Ref A) indicate that the poultry was positive for H5 (Ref B). Testing is continuing to determine if it is the H5N1 strain. The Government of Benin, along with its counterparts from the FAO and WHO, is currently developing a 6 month avian influenza (AI) containment plan. There have been no new reports of mass deaths of poultry in the past week (12/7 - 12/14) End Summary.

12. According to GOB officials, test results were delayed due to transportation strikes in Italy which prevented the samples from reaching the testing laboratory in Padova until December 12, 2007. Testing on December 13 revealed that the poultry was positive for H5 (Ref B). The results of the neuraminidase testing which will determine whether or not it is H5N1 are expected late in the day on December 14.

13. The GOB, WHO, and the FAO have spent the past week developing a 6 month AI containment plan. They have agreed on a 1.7 million dollar budget for the plan. As part of this effort the GOB will request the USG provide 1,360 units of personal protective equipment, 100 disinfection kits, 30 rapid diagnosis kits, reagents, and materials for sample collection. USAID has already sent a shipment of Poultry Rapid Antigen Test kits to Benin which is due to arrive on December 18. USDA/APHIS has also offered support to replenish the Ministry of Agriculture's testing laboratory's stock of reagents needed to perform initial testing on dead poultry.

14. The GOB, in conjunction with UNICEF, FAO, and WHO, is drafting a communications plan to be put in place if an H5N1 outbreak is confirmed. The December 14 chief of missions' donors meeting will concentrate on Benin's AI response.

BROWN